



Europe in Discourse

Identity • Diversity • Borders

1st International Conference

Book of Abstracts



Book of Abstracts

1st International Conference on
Europe in Discourse: Identity, Diversity,
Borders

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Introduction

Europe is going through an ‘existential’ crisis; a crisis of identity that extends beyond the financial and political crises of the past years. An unprecedented refugee crisis is renegotiating the continent’s humanitarian credentials, while right-wing populism is challenging its political and ideological make up. The combination of financial challenges, grassroots political pressure, terrorism and the refugee question are shaping Europe’s present and future.

Two opposing narratives are emerging: that of an “open Europe” of extroversion and open borders among its member states, and that of a “closed Europe”, which is challenging its ideological past and future. These narratives, however, are not merely conceptual. They are reflected in the stark absence of a shared sense of belonging—the lack of a European *demos*—and accentuated by the elusiveness of the values of citizenship, democracy and solidarity.

However, all may not be lost. Democracy still remains the cornerstone of European unity and Europe can take control over its destiny if it looks back at its roots and rethinks what brings it together. Europe may still be able to find unity in its cultural and intellectual past. Religious and linguistic diversity may also form part of a shared inheritance.

The 1st International Conference: Europe in Discourse: Identity, Diversity, Borders is an effort to ask anew what being European means. It does so through the prism of discourse, text and language and, as a look at the abstracts in this book will confirm, over a broad range of thematic areas, including:

- European identity in parliamentary discourses
- The European integration project and EU enlargement
- Religious discourses, diversity and social integration
- Media discourses about Europe and European identity
- Right-wing populist parties and European identity
- Linguistic diversity and European identity
- Citizenship and Identity reflected in national practices
- Borders, refugee crisis and discourses of othering
- Historical perspectives in constructing the EU identity
- Geopolitical perspectives in EU identity formation

Plenary sessions, panel sessions, individual paper presentations and posters offer a unique opportunity to understand how European identity is being shaped.

On behalf of the Steering and Scientific Committees we look forward to welcoming you to the Conference.

Europe in Discourse

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the Second World War. It is well known that decline and crisis were concepts repeatedly emphasised when discussing Europe's strengths/weaknesses and place in the world through the inter war period and that they were still in the European mind in the first post war years. In research it is less known that nihilism was also one of these concepts that travelled from the interbellum to be re-used at the beginning of the integration debate after 1945. It has further not been charted how the history of the concept of integration is related to the concepts of decline, crisis and nihilism through this period. Working within conceptual history and focusing on the discursive, controversial and contextual character of the concepts, this paper will focus on examples of how integration is depicted as the way to recovery from decline, crisis and nihilism from 1920 to 1948. Borders and diversities were over and over declared as being the roots of these threats; integration thus was the method to manage them. Focus of the presentation is on the concepts; when they are introduced and placed at the centre of the debate, their connotations, when and how and by whom they are related to the concept of integration. A contribution will thereby be made to the history of the construction of a European narrative. Moreover, in this period decline, crisis and nihilism are often emphasising threats that are basically regarding culture and spirit while integration is about economy or politics. Hence, this case study illustrates the inter connectedness of on the one hand cultural aspects and on the other hand economic/political dimensions in European identity.

Keywords: decline, crisis, nihilism, integration, 1920-1948

The European Institutions and the European Identity

Milena Apostolovska-Stepanoska, Hristina Runcheva Tasev

The author in this article divides the research in two parts. The first part of the article is devoted on the European identity issue and here the author claims that the European identity can be build and that the European institutions have very important role in this process. Namely, the European institutions affect the European identity when they are developing politics working regarding their competencies. The theoretical frame and the main hypothesis of this article is given by the theory of social constructivism whose developer Thomas Risse says that the European political identity can be create and changed and that the politics brought by the institutions are one of the mechanisms for that purpose. In that direction the author of this article says that the European citizenship that was introduced with the Treaty of Maastricht is one of the attempts of the institutions of the European Union to crate feeling of belonging to the supranational organization to th e citizens of the member states. In order to proof its claim the author of the article make short analyse of the development of the rights that were introduced with the Treaty of Maastricht and compare how they evolve in every other next Treaty. Furthermore the author make preview of the most important decisions, regulations, directives, reports, declarations and proposals that were brought by the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council and the European Council regarding the rights and obligations that the European citizens obtain with the European citizenship and in that manner influence on the creating the European identity. In the second part of the article the author deals with the problem of the democratic deficit in the European Union. Here it is made short analyse of this issue that ends with explanation why creating the European identity is solution for the shortage of democracy in the Union.

Keywords: European identity, european citizenship, democratic deficit

National and post-national discourses and the construction of linguistic identities by students of Albanian origin in Greece

Argiris Archakis

Drawing on Critical Discourse Analysis and, more specifically, on the relationship between the macro-level of dominant discourses and the micro-level of individual positionings (van Dijk 2008), we explore the ways linguistic identities are constructed by immigrant students of Albanian origin in Greece. To this end, we elaborate on two 'competitive' discourses: the national, homogenizing